

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 33

Elm Bank House, (St. Mary's Road Estate) Leatherhead



Elm Bank House c:1886



The Lych Gate c: 1886

Elm Bank House and its estate was owned for many years by the Rickards family and was described as a 'mid -Georgian residence with 21 1/2 acres of land'. Early in Queen Victoria's reign it was owned by the Clarke family, one of whom, Captain William Stanley Clarke, was an Elder Brother of Trinity House and a Director of the East India Company. He also bought and pulled down the adjoining Church House so that his land extended to the churchyard. By the late

1850s, Reginald F. Remington, a director of the Epsom & Leatherhead Railway Company, had become its owner.

The Rickards came to Elm Bank in the 1870s. In 1852 Edward J. Rickards married Harriett Louisa Millett at Send. He was a Solicitor and she was the daughter of Frederick and Maria Millett. Her father was a retired Bengal civil servant. In the Rickards' time, Elm Bank grounds were often open for social functions especially those connected with the church. Edward Rickards was a churchwarden for a long time and was for 19 years Chairman of the Leatherhead Parochial Committee concerned mainly with water supply and sanitation. They had five children, two sons and three daughters. It was his wife who arranged for the erection of the churches lych gate in memory of Harriett Millett in 1885. *(I can only assume the dedication was for the affection she held for her aunt Harriett, due to the fact that on her arrival in England from India around 1840 where she was born and only aged 10 at the time; she lived with her at 'The Palace, Montpelier Road, Brighthelmstone'. Her parents, two younger sisters, and two younger brothers returned to this country later in the 1840s.)*

Elm Bank was sold by Mrs E. Rickards in 1924, the house and fine gardens were eventually demolished and developed into St. Mary's Road housing estate.

Goff Powell - with acknowledgement to Edwina Vardey - History of Leatherhead - A Town at the Crossroads - L&DLHS 1988 and other sources



Entrance to St. Mary's Road c:1928

For information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum opening hours contact:

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